

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-40. (Canceled)

41. (Currently amended) A kit for detecting the presence of breast cancer or for evaluating the efficacy of a therapeutic treatment of a breast cancer, the kit comprising in combination:

a receptacle for receiving a tissue or body fluid sample from a mammal;

a binding moiety which binds specifically to a ~~breast-cancer-associated~~ protein comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1; SEQ ID NO: 2; SEQ ID NO: 3; SEQ ID NO: 4; SEQ ID NO: 5; SEQ ID NO:6; SEQ ID NO:7; SEQ ID NO:8; SEQ ID NO:9; SEQ ID NO:10; SEQ ID NO:11; SEQ ID NO:12; SEQ ID NO:13; SEQ ID NO:14; SEQ ID NO:15; SEQ ID NO:16; SEQ ID NO:17; SEQ ID NO:18; SEQ ID NO:19; SEQ ID NO:20; SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:22; and SEQ ID NO:23;

a means for detecting the binding moiety bound to the ~~breast-cancer-associated~~ protein; and

a reference sample.

42. (Original) The kit of claim 41, wherein the reference sample is indicative of a normal breast sample.

43. (Currently amended) A method of diagnosing breast cancer in a mammal, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining a sample isolated from the mammal; and

(b) detecting in the sample the presence or absence of a protein characterized as comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1; SEQ ID NO: 2; SEQ ID NO: 3; SEQ ID NO: 4; SEQ ID NO: 5; SEQ ID NO:6; SEQ ID NO:7; SEQ ID NO:8; SEQ ID NO:9; SEQ ID NO:10; SEQ ID NO:11; SEQ ID NO:12; SEQ ID NO:13; SEQ ID NO:14; SEQ ID NO:15; SEQ ID NO:16; SEQ ID NO:17; SEQ ID NO:18; SEQ ID NO:19; SEQ ID NO:20; SEQ ID NO:21, SEQ ID NO:22; and SEQ ID NO:23, which if present is indicative of breast cancer in the mammal.

44. (Canceled)

45. (Currently amended) The method of claim 43[[44]], wherein the sample comprises breast tissue.

46. (Original) The method of claim 43, wherein the sample comprises a body fluid.

47. (Original) The method of claim 46, wherein the body fluid is selected from the group consisting of blood, serum, plasma, sweat, tears, urine, peritoneal fluid, lymph, vaginal secretions, semen, spinal fluid, ascitic fluid, saliva, sputum, and breast exudate.

48. (Currently amended) A method of diagnosing breast cancer in a mammal, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting a sample derived from the mammal with a binding moiety that binds specifically to a ~~cancer-associated protein to produce a binding moiety-cancer-associated protein complex, wherein said binding moiety binds specifically to a protein~~ comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO:22, and SEQ ID NO:23, thereby to produce a complex; and

(b) detecting the presence or absence of ~~the~~ complex, ~~which if present is~~ indicative of the presence of breast cancer in the mammal.

49. (Canceled)

50. (Original) The method of claim 48, wherein the binding moiety is selected from the group consisting of an antibody, an antibody fragment and a biosynthetic antibody binding site.

51. (Original) The method of claim 48, wherein the binding moiety is an antibody.

52. (Original) The method of claim 51, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

53. (Original) The method of claim 50, wherein the binding moiety is labeled with a detectable moiety.

54. (Currently amended) The method of claim 48, wherein the absence of a detectable amount of the protein is indicative of the absence of breast cancer.

55. (Currently amended) The method of claim 48, further comprising the additional steps of:

(c) measuring an amount of the protein in the sample; and

(d) comparing the amount of the protein in the sample with a threshold value indicative of breast cancer in a mammal, wherein an amount of the protein in the sample greater than or equal to the threshold value is indicative of the presence of the cancer in the mammal.

56-62. (Canceled)